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Wolves Still with Us, Eden Mills' Trapper Proves with His First Catch

By Hazel Mack
 A hard-working trapper for over 30 years, Bill Mino of Eden Mills caught his first wolf this winter. And within a couple of miles of the village which is considerably built up today. The wolf, a female, was a big one and weighed about 75 pounds. Bill can still hardly believe that he caught such a large animal but he's keeping the pelt for awhile anyway, to prove it.

Curiously, wolves are seldom if ever seen in this particular area. People sometimes "think" they see one but usually it turns-out to have been a dog. They do look a bit like a dog too, except that their nose does not slope as does a dog's. And of course, the tail is a dead give-away looking like the tail of a fox.

Wolves are seen, however, back of the Niagara escarpment that circles that area. It is not too many miles from Milton to Eden Mills and no distance at all for a swift-footed creature as fast as a wolf.

This part of Halton is reasonably well built-up today, yet despite this, Bill Mino has made a business of trapping all these past years. Once, he made a good living each season.

His territory allows him two routes in different directions of about 20 miles each. He usually does each one every other day. He starts out about eight o'clock in the morning and is home by five o'clock in the afternoon.

There is just no demand for fox or skunk pelts! Coon pelts are worth today \$1.50 in winter and \$1.25 other seasons. Once, in the good old days, the coon pelts were worth \$10.00 to \$12.00 each. A fox hide brought the generous sum of \$20.00.

"Funny how things change," he remarked. "Twenty years ago, a female mink was worth far more than the male because her coat was darker and richer looking. Today it is the male pelt that is most in demand. It is larger and the big skins are wanted now."

Today Bill earns about \$200 in the whole season and keeps on with the trapping more to have something to do. He is 74 now and despite his age, likes to keep active.

"Mink sure are queer animals," he continued. "Almost always when caught, they will manage to drown themselves rather than be found alive when the trapper comes. Must be some trick they use under a branch in some way and are unable to get out of the water for the necessary air."

Bill expects to collect \$25.00 for the wolf as bounty money. In this area in 1966 the bounty for each wolf pelt was \$8.00 to \$10.00 each. That was good for those days and there were many wolves that did much damage to farm animals. It is on record that some hunters never killed any but the young wolves so that there would always be more wolves to kill and so collect bounty. They compared it to killing the "goose that laid the golden eggs" to kill off the old wolves.

It is strange that the many predatory animals continue to exist side by side with man, so to speak. They fear man, yet they remain to fight it out with him. It is well that they are kept under control, however, for the mink particularly are cruel. Wee betide the poultry farmer who has the ill luck to have a quack visit him. This strange, vicious animal kills mainly for the joy of killing, eating only a very small quantity of what he destroys and unlike most other predatory animals, killing only to satisfy hunger.



NEW LUDLOW MACHINE, designed to increase speed and efficiency in display typesetting and newspaper head setting, was added to the list of modern equipment in the Free Press production department last week. Shown at right is staff compositor Murray Scovine taking pointers on the machine from James McGeachie, Ludlow Typograph Company representative in Canada, who installs machines across the country. Mr. McGeachie, brother of town clerk Jack McGeachie, first got printer's ink in his blood at the Free Press 25 years ago. He now lives in Toronto.

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Denounce Frost Government At Liberal Rally In Trafalgar

"Extravagance is not an unfair word to use in describing many things of which the Frost government has been guilty. I need only mention the Highways and Hydro," said Mrs. F. S. Greenwood, past president of the Ontario Women's Liberal Association and immediate past president of the Toronto and Yorks region of the OWLA Friday night.

She spoke on behalf of William Anderson, Oakville, Liberal candidate for Halton riding, at a rally in Trafalgar township hall.

More than 200 persons from Georgetown, Milton, Acton, Trafalgar and Oakville attended the meeting.

A gesture was made by the government in the highways scandal in which some minor cases were brought to justice, Mrs. Greenwood said. A large fine was imposed on a large contracting firm but the fine has not yet been paid, she stated.

Censure for these irregularities were placed on a man deceased, she said. "He could not talk back such absolute exorbitance."

"We should turn any government with such a record out of office," she said. "Yet Mr. Frost says he is an honorable man, or words to that effect."

The Hydro conversion program was another example of extravagance and waste of materials, Mrs. Greenwood said. Much of the material replaced in the conversion operations was later scrapped, she said.

Mr. Frost seeks to place his health and welfare remlissions in the lap of the federal government, she said. "It isn't going to stay there for Ontario didn't utilize the federal offer for hospital assistance. He can't get away with that."

"Mr. Frost has no definite health plan," Mrs. Greenwood said. "He is waiting for the Liberals to come up with some plan he can adopt."

Failure of the Frost government to stand by its promise to pay 50 per cent of education costs affects every household in the province and in many cases, the standard of living, Mr. Anderson stated.

"When I was campaigning recently in Nelson township, I was amazed when a resident showed me his tax-bill. It revealed that 71 per cent of every dollar in taxes went to meet education costs. In Oakville, the rate is about 50 per cent for school taxes," he said.

Mr. Frost has failed in his duty to Ontario, said Mr. Anderson.

All he has learned...

The experience and judgment of this man are of direct importance to a large number of people in his community.

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